

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121:

1. (currently amended) A method of facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising:
modifying said complex impedance of said electrical power network; and
determining whether said modifying affected a quality of said communication.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said modifying alters a characteristic of a null in said electrical power network.
3. (original) The method of claim 1,
wherein said communication is conducted in a signal frequency band, and
wherein said modifying improves said quality in said signal frequency band.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said modifying is performed in response to a determination that said quality is below an acceptable threshold.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said modifying and said determining are repeated for a plurality of values for said complex impedance, and wherein said method further comprises determining which of said plurality of values yields a best level for said quality.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method is employed by a device selected from the group consisting of a transmitter, a receiver, and a transceiver.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method is employed by a transceiver that failed to receive an acknowledgement of a message that said transceiver previously transmitted over said electrical power network.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said quality is gauged by a bit error rate of said communication.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said quality is gauged by whether said communication is acknowledged by a receiver coupled to said electrical power network.

10. (currently amended) A method of facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising:
determining a quality of communication in said electrical power network; and
modifying said complex impedance of said electrical power network if said quality is below an acceptable threshold.

11. (currently amended) A method of facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising:
transmitting information via said electrical power network;
modifying said complex impedance of said electrical power network; and
retransmitting said information via said electrical power network.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising:
a circuit for modifying said complex impedance of said electrical power network;
and
a processor for determining whether said modifying affected a quality of said communication.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said modifying alters a characteristic of a null in said electrical power network.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said communication is conducted in a signal frequency band, and wherein said modifying improves said quality in said signal frequency band.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said modifying is performed in response to a determination that said quality is below an acceptable threshold.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said modifying and said determining are repeated for a plurality of values for said complex impedance, and wherein said processor further comprises a module for determining which of said plurality of values yields a best level for said quality.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said apparatus is employed by device selected from the group consisting of a transmitter, a receiver, and a transceiver.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said apparatus is employed by a transceiver that failed to receive an acknowledgement of a message that said transceiver previously transmitted over said electrical power network.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said quality is gauged by a bit error rate of said communication.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said quality is gauged by whether said communication is acknowledged by a receiver coupled to said electrical power network.

21. (currently amended) A processor for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising:

a module for determining a quality of communication in said electrical power network; and

a module for controlling a circuit to modify said complex impedance of said electrical power network if said quality is below an acceptable threshold.

22. (currently amended) A processor for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising:

a module for advising a transmitter to transmit information via said electrical power network;

a module for controlling a circuit to modify said complex impedance of said electrical power network; and

a module for advising said transmitter to retransmit said information.

23. (currently amended) A storage medium that contains instructions for controlling a processor for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising:

instructions for controlling said processor to determine a quality of communication in said electrical power network; and

instructions for controlling said processor to control a circuit to modify said complex impedance of said electrical power network if said quality is below an acceptable threshold.

24. (currently amended) A storage medium that contains instructions for controlling a processor for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising:

instructions for controlling said processor to advise a transmitter to transmit information via said electrical power network;

instructions for controlling said processor to control a circuit to modify of said electrical power network said complex impedance; and

instructions for controlling said processor to advise said transmitter to retransmit said information.